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Status of Veterinary Profession

1. Under the Soviet occupation the Ministry of Agriculture in Moscow was in charge of animal disease control for the Ukraine. The unit directly responsible for planning and administration was the Chief Veterinary Medical Administration. This organ had a regional office in the regional headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture at Kiev. Although it was set up as an administrative organ, its main operating function was to translate the existing and changing regulations sent from Moscow into the Ukrainian language. This office was also in charge of printing and distributing this printed matter. Although the Chief Veterinary Administration in Kiev was part of the Ministry of Agriculture, its director there was responsible only to the Minister in Moscow. His aides were known as "inspectors" and were directors of specialized categories such as horse ailments, diseases of long-horned cattle, diseases of sheep, swine, rabbits, fowl, etc. There was also a statistics division run by so-called "controllers." There was another section of agricultural education and a section for both clinical and medical supply. The editors of veterinary journals operated separately from these other sections.

2. Previous to the Soviet occupation the West Ukraine was divided merely on county levels. Each county had its own agricultural department. These departments usually consisted of a few agronomists, zootechnicians and veterinarians. The county veterinary hospitals employed one or two veterinarians, usually with assistants, and a stable man who took care of horses and other animals. The veterinarians were paid directly by the government and were not allowed to do private practice. I do not know the amount of their salaries.

3. The pre-Soviet county division was kept vaguely intact by the Veterinary Medical Administration, which set up "veterinary areas" with a "senior veterinarian" or with an "inspector" at its head. Usually these "areas" corresponded to the pre-Soviet county divisions and were divided into two or three "veterinary medical points." The veterinary medical area always corresponded to the administrative region under the VMA, and as a rule the senior veterinarian of an area was himself the regional inspector. This person usually had absolute and arbitrary authority

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over the veterinary personnel in his area. The personnel of each veterinary area was charged with the administration of all institutions within its territories. These included all slaughterhouses, dairies, warehouses and plants where animal products were processed. The authority of these Veterinary Medical Administration area personnel was absolute in animal matters except at railroad stations, military points and border quarantine points. The head of the Veterinary Medical Administration area was assisted by a staff of a few specialized veterinarians such as an epizootologist and a parasitologist. The minimum staff of an area administration was the chief veterinarian, a zootechnician, a feldscher, a sanitary engineer, a statistician, a groom, a chauffeur, a manager and a clerk. The Veterinary Medical Administration area contained a veterinary-medical clinic, a drugstore, a diagnostic laboratory, a permanent hospital for non-contagious diseases, a quarantine area for contagious diseases, a gas chamber for the treatment of mange in horses, and a section for artificial insemination. Each area also had an installation for processing the bodies of dead animals and a specially prepared cemetery for the carcasses of infected animals. There was also a regional orthopedic blacksmith shop to care for the hoofs of diseased horses. Each kolkhosp had courses of training for the members of its veterinary medical sanitary staff and animal attendants. Students of the veterinary school also received their practical training in the kolkhosp.

4. Under the Soviet system a veterinary medical organization worked on the basis of special laws and regulations, and since in the Soviet system the life of an animal is often considered more valuable than that of a person, these laws and regulations were complicated and detailed in form and were strictly enforced. The veterinary medical law and all the instructions for carrying out that law were included in a special collection and published in a handbook for the use of all veterinarians, zootechnicians and even administrators of agriculture. By the enforcement of the minute details of these laws and instructions the Soviets had turned highly qualified professionals into technical executors. The entire activities of these men were so conditioned by specific instructions and prescriptions that they were practically unable to reach professional decisions on their own. The extent of the ability required for them to do their job was to follow these specific instructions as laid down for each case.

5. The veterinary medical organization, like all other Soviet organizations in the Ukraine, was controlled by a special secret service of the Ministry of Security. To carry out this control each institution had a so-called "special section" whose members were appointed by the appropriate organs in the Ministry of Security. These special sections controlled the work of all the veterinary medical workers. This control extended to review of all correspondence, to all their reports and even to the private lives of the workers and their families. In this way the unsatisfactory conditions arising from mismanagement could be hidden from the outside world.

General Animal Health

6. Animals in the Ukraine suffered from practically all of the common infectious diseases covered in accepted veterinary literature. Most of these, of course, occurred in sporadic outbreaks. After the first world war there were many cases of glanders and scabies in horses in the Ukraine and many cases of scabies in sheep in West Ukraine. During the years 1928 and 1930 the glanders disease was wiped out by using malleinization on all horses, donkeys and mules by intrapalpebrae. All animals showing positive reactions to this were liquidated. In doubtful cases the underskin method was used and all animals showing positive reactions were killed. At that time the state insurance company was paying 100% for animals for which post-mortem examinations were negative and 75% for post-mortem positive cases. This was in accordance with Polish law.

7. Mange was treated by using ointments and liniments like Wieneliniment, a mixture of one-half milk and one-half petroleum, and sulphur and calcium (Flemming's Liniment). During the second world war mange in horses was cured in gas chambers. There were 60 of these gas chambers in West Ukraine and the treatment was performed from SO_2 gas obtained by burning sulphur. The results of this gas chamber method were good only in those cases where the gas chambers were hermetic and the concentration of SO_2 was at least five percent during periods of one-half to one hour.

8. Other infectious diseases which occurred frequently were anthrax and blackleg in cattle; swine erysipelas; fowl cholera; rabies in dogs and other animals; hemorrhagic septicemia in cattle, sheep and rabbits; pullorum diseases; and distemper in dogs. Diseases like hog cholera, foot and mouth disease, brucella abortus in cattle, tetanus, equine contagious pneumonia, bovine contagious pleuropneumonia, tuberculosis in cattle and fowl, piroplasmosis in cattle in wooded areas, fowl plague, dictyocaulosis in sheep, Cl botulinum in horses, fowl and cattle appeared less frequently.

9. Specific outbreaks included an epidemic of botulism in the Terebowla region. This epidemic occurred in 1930 and caused the death of 82 horses. The outbreaks of this disease were enzootic during the entire year and epizootic during the early spring months, due to the fact that in these months there is a lack of green fresh grass, hay and other feed. According to a report made by Dr Antin Bazar the botulism in animals was spread by incorrect animal husbandry practices. In 1941 at the kolkhosp (Soviet State Collective Farm) near the village of Sorocko in the Terebowla region, there was an outbreak of botulism in chickens. During one night 200 chickens were found dead. According to the information obtained from the farm administration the birds had been fed with screenings which had been stored for a long time indoors. They had become wet and had sprouted. This particular storage area was also littered with a large number of dead mice. In 1933 in the Lvov County area, there was an outbreak of botulism on a large dairy cattle farm. These cattle had been fed spoiled beet and other plant tops from silos. These tops had been contaminated with dirt.

Veterinary Pharmaceutical and Biological Production

10. There were no pharmaceutical or biological plants in the West Ukraine. There were some plants in the East Ukraine, but I have no information on these.

Veterinary Education, Research and Development

11. The school of veterinary medicine at Lvov was the highest veterinary school in the West Ukraine. There were intermediate schools in almost every district and lower echelon courses for veterinary workers in every regional laboratory. All of the higher schools were financially dependent upon the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Food Ministry and other state organs. They were also controlled by the Ministry of Higher Education in Moscow, which dictated all political courses and activities of the students and faculty. The intermediate and lower schools were under the local Ministry of Education.

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50X1 12. about the time of the start of the Soviet occupation of West Ukraine. At that time there were 36 graduate veterinarians engaged in teaching and research at the school of veterinary medicine in Lvov

50X1 There were graduate veterinarians teaching and studying in other specialized fields at Lvov but I do not remember exactly how many. I do not remember studying any Russian veterinary medical journals published in the Soviet Union. There were, however, many Russian and Ukrainian professional textbooks and also translations of German textbooks. These translations included the titles "Anatomy" by Eleniberger and "Pathology and Therapeutics of Diseases of Domestic Animals" by Hutyna, Marek and Manninger.

13. The research students were under the supervision and direction of the All-Union Lenin Academy in Moscow. All of these were located in the East Ukraine. Laboratories for the practical application of scientific research were established in each district. Each of these laboratories, besides its director-veterinarian, had on its staff at least four or five other veterinarians, an epizootologist, a serologist, a parasitologist and a chemical technologist. In West Ukraine these laboratories were located in Lvov, Stanislav and Terebowla.

14. All the medical instruments were either made in Poland or were imported from Germany (before the year 1939). Bacteriological laboratories were organized under the Soviet occupation at Lvov, Stanislav and Tarnopol. The staffs of these bacteriological laboratories included veterinarians and bacteriologists from the USSR.

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